weaker sections including the Public Distribution System (PDS). The operational responsibility for implementing the PDS is with the State Governments/ UT Administrations. The Central Government has been reviewing the functions of the PDS with the States/UTs for improving the functioning of the PDS. With a view to improving the reach of the PDS to the economically disadvantaged regions of the country, the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments launched the Revamped PDS in about 1752 Blocks in the country. In the Blocks covered under the RPDS, foodgrains are made available at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50 per quintal less than the Central Issue Prices for normal PDS areas. During 1994-95, Central Government has earmarked 3.2 million tonnes over and above the normal allocations made by the States/UTs, for distribution in RPDS areas. Under the RPDS, most of the States/UTs have constituted Vigilance Committees at the fair price shop level for ensuring peoples involvement in supervising the distribution of PDS commodities.

Newspaper Report on Vanaspati Oil

1707. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vanaspati Telon ki gunvatta sambhandi adhiniyam sudhar" appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated the 26th November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the orders on the subject are likely to be issued and the safeguards provided for their not being misused; and

(d) the list of the items in respect of which the standards and norms of quality have been prescribed and made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Notification was issued by the Government of India on 23rd April, 1990 under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 making it compulsory to market Blended Edible Vegetable Oils only under Agmark certification. The Notification also provides for necessary safeguards against possible misuse of the provisions of the said Act.

(d) The standards and norms of quality have been prescribed and made operative in respect of five items the description of which is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below).

Statement

Grade	Description
1. Refined Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any two refined edible vegetable oils excepting rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the individual oil used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
2. Refined Blend-B	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of refined edible vegetable oils with refined rice-bran oil where proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
3. General Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of raw edible vegetable oils with any one of the refined edible vegetable oils excepting rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
4. General Blend-B	The blend shall be the admixture of any one of raw edible vegetable oils with refined rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individuals oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.
5. Standard Blend-A	The blend shall be the admixture of any two raw edible vegetable oils except rice-bran oil where the proportion by weight of any of the two individual oils used shall not be less than 20 per cent.